

OPC Bulletin

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • MARCH 1995

Story Behind the Story in Kobe

Lewis M. Simons is Asia correspondent for the San Jose Mercury News, based in Tokyo. Among his many honors, he has won the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, the Gerald Loeb Award for economic and business reporting, and several Overseas Press Club Awards.

By Lewis M. Simons

KOBE, Japan—Readers, a particularly crotchety editor informed me at the outset of my career, have no interest in reporters. In other words, keep yourself out of your story.

Impressionable, I took it as gospel, and over the years I've pretty much limited my role to that of a conduit, keeping my two cents to myself. But I've also found that many readers, when they question me face-to-face, are dying to know what the "real story" is presuming, I guess, that reporters save the best stuff for themselves.

They also want to know how I got a certain story or what it was like covering a particularly hairy event. After a good deal of questioning along this line about the recent earthquake here, I thought I'd pass along some of my experiences.

See Page 5 for a critique of Western and Japanese quake coverage

The worst moment came just after my assistant, Naoko Yamazaki, and I reached Kobe from Tokyo at 4 a.m. The trip, by plane, taxi and on foot, had taken 13 hours. We'd crashed for an hour on the floor of a friend's office, and just before dawn headed out to see the devastation.

My friend, Ron Siani, who runs the area branch of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, graciously accompanied us to the arched bridge linking the artificial island where he lives and works to central Kobe. About halfway across the span—which suf-

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Hauling two large buckets of water, a woman inspects a building destroyed by the Jan. 17 earthquake in Kobe, Japan. The physical damage posed big challenges for reporters.

Home-grown African Daily Tests Democracy in 3 Nations

By Gerry Loughran

NAIROBI, Kenya—At a time when newspapers are folding wholesale, it is gratifying to be in at the birth of a new one, especially in Africa where pressures on the media are of an order most Western journalists only dimly comprehend.

Toward the end of a career divided about equally between newspaper and wire-service (UPI, 18 years) journalism, I was asked by one of my earliest employers, Nation Newspapers in Nairobi, Kenya, to investigate extending the company's reach into neighboring Tanzania and Uganda.

The *Daily Nation*, in whose launch I participated 35 years ago, has since grown to be the largest daily in east and central Africa with a sale of something like 170,000. On one memorable day, when a cabinet minister was arrested, circulation topped 300,000—evidence

of the public's reliance on independent written media over government-owned electronic media in these parts.

As its long-established opposition hemorrhaged sales and a government daily (in which Robert Maxwell was once involved) earned obloquy for its tendentious methods, the *Nation* built a unique reputation for courageous and honest reporting in often intimidating circumstances. However, it was rarely able to extend these efforts adequately over its borders. Though copies were trucked and flown to the capitals, Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam, distances were vast and infrastructures deteriorated as Uganda regressed into Idi Amin chaos and political differences arose periodically with Tanzania.

When political authoritarianism in Africa began to crumble following the collapse of Marxism in Europe, the time

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President's Corner:

OPC's Six-month Report Card

By Bill Holstein

No, this isn't Newt Gingrich giving you a 50-day review of his Contract with America. It's just a quiet report card on how the OPC is doing.

The answer is surprisingly well, on many fronts. The revitalization begun by past presidents H.L. Stevenson and Larry Smith is accelerating.

—The *Bulletin*. Our newsletter is obviously vastly improved. Thanks to David Fondiller of *Forbes*, who is editing it. Thanks also to *Parade* and *Business Week* for Mac equipment that is helping him. I've recently come across *Bulletins* from the 1950s and 1960s. I think I can safely say that the newsletter now is the best it's ever been. Anyone disagree?

—Awards. Under CNN's Allan Dodds Frank and *Time*'s Michael Serrill, OPC Awards have also reached a high water mark (see story on page 4). The entire media industry covets our prizes. Part of the explanation for this year's deluge is that Club Manager Sonya Fry did a good job of marketing the awards—taking out ads in *Editor & Publisher*, for example. The caliber of our judges is also steadily improving, and this is also a sign of how the OPC awards are perceived.

—Programming. Club events are now stronger and better suited to our needs. This is a mea culpa in a way because when I was Program Chair, I tended toward deadly serious panel discussions. Under Janice Castro of *Time*,

we've shifted the tone toward more social events and networking events. That seems to be what our members and media professionals as a whole really want. We are all overwhelmed with serious policy discussions. Give us the opportunity to raise a glass.

Most recently, our Christmas party organized by Jackie Albert-Simon of *Politique Internationale* was a big hit. The Gene Roberts lunch in January boasted a sell-out crowd of 100. And our Correspondent's Night, hopefully the first annual, was also quite fun. I'm highly impressed by the stories submitted. You'll be reading them in the *Bulletin* in the coming months. The evening was also important because we reached out and worked with the Deadline Club and the U.N. Correspondents Association to make it happen.

—*Dateline* and the Dinner. They're shaping up quite well. I am editing this year's *Dateline*, with design and production help from my friends at *BW*. We are lining up excellent writers like Roger Cohen of *The New York Times*, Doyle McManus of *The Los Angeles Times*, Bob Davis of *The Wall Street Journal*, Larry Martz of the *World Press Review*, and others. I'm very



Bill Holstein

excited by the caliber of our editorial material. Jane Ciabattari of *Parade* will help on the editing. Plus, all the major photo agencies have donated their best photography, and we are pretty sure we'll be able to print a four-color, 80-page book. Kate MacLeod is busy selling ads.

Accepting my President's Award for lifetime achievement at the dinner will be Robert MacNeil of MacNeil/Lehrer. Anita Diamant, dinner chair, is still working on rounding out the evening, consulting with Allan Frank, and others. But it already shapes up as a winner. April 26 is the date.

—Freedom of the press. Norman Schorr and Dinah Lee continue to do battle against the bad guys on a staggering variety of fronts. They are true crusaders.

—Reciprocals and hotel privileges. Elinor Griest has gone after reciprocal relationships with great ferocity. We now have reciprocals with press clubs in Washington, London, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Phnom Penh, Frankfurt, Moscow, Ottawa, and Los Angeles. We also have discounts on hotels in London, Nairobi and Paris (the famed Hotel Scribe.)

—Scholarships. The OPC Foundation is inactive at the moment because of H.L. Stevenson's critical health condition, but it gave four journalism scholarships out in January and has the resources to do it again next year. This is one area of real concern and challenge for us right now. We hope H.L. can get back on his feet again and reapply his considerable talent and energy.

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MEDIA WATCH

LUANDA: The assassination of Angola's leading muckraker, Ricardo de Mello, has unleashed widespread fear among non-government journalists in Luanda. A year ago, Mello, 38, and two partners founded *Imparcial Fax*—an independent daily that specializes in stories of corruption, war profiteering and rifts within the government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. On Jan. 18, Mello was found shot in the head in his home. Who killed him? Speculation centers on the presidential guard, the Interior Ministry or perhaps some elements of the military. Although *Imparcial Fax* has suspended publication, co-founder Jaime Goncalves vows to resume soon—perhaps from abroad. "Ricardo has been killed, but we will not let him die," he said.

(*The Washington Post*)

BUDAPEST: The United States Information Agency has moved to stop financing a journalism training program in Budapest that has been run by an American university for four years. The decision has led to complaints by American journalists and the program's administrators that the agency is infringing on academic freedom and journalistic independence. Administered by the College of Journalism of the University of Maryland, the program is one of several in eastern Europe aimed at developing an independent press. Joseph D. Duffey, director of the agency, explained, "There are questions about whether the program is up to the standards that were set in the early years."

(*The New York Times*)

TUNIS: The Tunisian press, which is heavily government-controlled, is turning its back on growing Islamic violence in neighboring Algeria. Last month, the carnage of an Algerian prison riot was front page material in newspapers around the world, but not in *La Presse*, one of Tunisia's two largest dailies. The French-language daily buried the mutiny on page 8. When it was revealed that Algerian security forces had killed at least 100 prisoners, *La Presse's* headline read: "The mutineers of the Algiers prison were armed." For the Arabic daily *Al-Sahafa*, meanwhile, the assault by security forces "saved hundreds of prisoners' lives."

(*The Financial Times*)

Killings of Journalists Hit Peak of 72 in '94

More journalists were killed worldwide because of their work last year than at any time in recent years, according to a report by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The committee, an independent group of American journalists based in New York, said 72 reporters, photographers and editors died in the line of duty in 1994, more than any year since the organization began keeping records of journalists' deaths in 1981. In 1993, the committee said, 64 journalists were killed because of their work.

The committee said 58 of the killings last year "appear to have been deliberate political assassinations." In none of the 18 countries where the killings occurred has anyone been arrested for them, it added.

Another 14 journalists were killed in covering battles in places like Bosnia, Somalia and Chechnya.

William A. Orme Jr., the committee's executive director, said two trends appeared to be subjecting journalists to greater dangers in their own countries.

In many countries, he said, Islamic militants have singled out independent reporters because they see journalists as supporters of secularism. He also said that in places like the former

Soviet Union, where journalists are experimenting with new freedoms, reporters are testing their societies' support for a free press.

The committee said Algerian Islamic rebels were responsible for 19 killings, making Algeria the country with the highest death toll for journalists. Other countries with many killings of journalists were Rwanda, Tajikistan and Cambodia.

In what the report called an especially disturbing development, two investigative reporters in Russia were killed in what the committee concluded was retaliation for their work.

One of the Russians, Yuri Soltis, a crime reporter for the independent new agency Interfax, was investigating Russian underworld activities when he was beaten to death, the committee said.

The other reporter, Dmitri Kholodov, had been investigating organized crime connections with the Russian military for the newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, when he was killed by a bomb blast at the newspaper's office.

The committee, which receives much of its financing from American news organizations, said it only cites incidents when it can corroborate from more than one source that journalists were killed because of their profession.

World Press Survey of Top 10 Stories Skips O.J. Simpson, Unlike U.S. Poll

The arrest and trial of O.J. Simpson was voted the top story of last year by hundreds of U.S. news executives queried by the Associated Press. But O.J. was a no-show overseas, according to *World Press Review's* annual survey of overseas editors.

This year's overseas survey, published in *WPR's* February issue, found no consensus on the biggest story. But the four most often mentioned were the election of Nelson Mandela in South Africa, peace-keeping failures in Bosnia, the Mideast peace process, and the carnage in Rwanda.

The AP domestic poll listed only three stories with international aspects among the top ten: Rwanda, the Mideast, and U.S. intervention in Haiti.

But only one U.S. domestic story—the Republican victory in midterm elections—was cited on more than one overseas top-ten list. Among others highlighted by editors working abroad: global trade, Algeria's civil strife, and developments in North Korea.

After O.J., the AP's roster included the U.S. election results, hockey and baseball labor disputes, the case of Susan Smith (the mother charged with killing children she said were kidnapped), and the dispute between ice skaters Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding.

The editors chosen by *World Press Review* work either in the developing world or for publications that specialize in covering the Third World.

AFRICAN DAILY

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seemed ripe for a new look at the regional market. It had always been assumed this would be tackled by putting out strongly regional editions of the Kenya paper. During 18 months or so of travel and research, it became apparent to me that this was not possible on a daily basis. Though the *Nation* was fully computerized, the logistical, production, transportation and staff problems of producing three separate national editions per night were insuperable.

Thus was conceived, and finally born last November, *The EastAfrican*, a minimum 36-page business-oriented tabloid weekly of sober mien and much depth, adorned with the *New York Times* foreign service and committed to telling the stories of the three East African nations - to each other and hopefully to some extent, by subscription, to the rest of the world.

The newspaper met its advertising and circulation targets almost immediately, and if last year's end was not the most propitiously commercial time to launch, the immediate performance was so promising as to suggest great things lay ahead.

It would be absurd to suggest that *The EastAfrican* will make much more than a plop, at least initially, in the ocean of world news. The lack of interest in the continent is too well known to need much rehashing. Key reasons include the disappearance of the geopolitical factor from the First World-Third World equation caused by the end of the Cold War, economic hard times in the West, and the perception of Africa as a vast, corrupt sinkhole down which large amounts of aid disappear without trace.

What *The EastAfrican* has proved on the most obvious level is that entrepreneurial flair, organization and talent exist in Africa in sufficient measure to solve problems internally, without the automatic reach for assistance outside the continent.

More importantly, the quality of the product poses a challenge to African governments still nostalgic for the press sycophancy of old to aspire to higher standards in terms of performance, ethics, citizen care and all those fundamentals of democracy they find so easy to profess and so difficult to practice.

Gerry Loughran is founding editor of The EastAfrican and an OPC member.

Record Number of Entries Compete for OPC Honors

This looks to be a banner year for the OPC's annual awards. We have 474 entries in the contest's 18 categories—a sharp jump from last year's 352 and a new record for the club. Every major news organization is represented, from *The Wall Street Journal* to the *New Yorker* to CBS News, and many have entries in several different categories.

Most encouraging, however, is the number of smaller news organizations that seem to have expanded their foreign coverage. Entries for the awards flooded in not just from *The Los Angeles Times* and CNN, but from the *Orlando Sun-Sentinel*, Maryland Public Television and *The Earth Times*.

The most popular category, with 42 submissions, is the award for best photography in newspapers and wire services. Other well-subscribed awards include those for best reporting from abroad in newspapers and magazines and those for news reporters showing concern for human rights and the human condition. One trophy for which the number of seekers more than doubled, to 26, is the Whitman Bassow Award for environmental reporting from abroad—clearly an area that the media are devoting more attention to as problems such as air and water pollution and nuclear waste disposal go global.

Sifting through the piles of clippings,

tapes, magazines and books are more than 50 distinguished judges. Among them: A.M. Rosenthal, former executive editor of *The New York Times*; Andrew Nibley, director of new media for Reuters; David Friend, picture editor for *Life*; Allen Alter, foreign editor for CBS News; and Larry Martz, formerly of *Newsweek* and now editor of *World Press Review*. Supervising the time-consuming judging process are awards Co-chairmen Michael S. Serrill, a senior writer at *Time*, and Allan Dodds Frank, a longtime OPC activist who is now an investigative reporter with CNN.

Winners will be announced at the Awards Dinner April 26 at the Grand Hyatt hotel in New York City. Speaking at the dinner will be Robert MacNeil, executive editor and anchor of the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour on PBS, who will be presented by OPC President William Holstein with the President's Award for lifetime achievement in journalism. For reservations call OPC manager Sonya Fry at 212 983-4655.

**Look for the
1995 OPC Dateline
coming in April.**

President's Corner...

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—Finances. We've had, shall I say, a checkered financial history. But Treasurer George Burns has got all the numbers onto a computer and we now know—for the first time—where our money is being spent and where it's coming from. We are still in a net negative asset/liability position, but we're gradually digging out of the hole. On a cash flow basis, for example, we're actually positive.

—OPC office & manager. We've upgraded the OPC office by moving across the hall to a much larger, nicer space, for not very much more money. New computers from BW are in place. We did this without changing our address or phone number, and fueling

the outside world's image of the OPC as a wandering minstrel.

PS: Don't tell Sonya Fry, but everybody thinks she's doing a good job, as manager. Definitely don't tell Lili Lee that she also has been working hard. For example, they both spent a Saturday moving the OPC office. Thanks to George Burns and Bob Sullivan for pitching in. We found all sorts of neat, old historical souvenirs.

So you can see that there has been real movement on many fronts. I would like to thank all of these people for what they've done and are doing. It can be overwhelming at times, but if each of us contributes just a bit, we can be quite an important, vital organization.

Quake Coverage Reveals Cultural Rift

By T.R. Reid

KOBE, Japan—Is there a right way for a reporter to cover an earthquake? The answer seems to depend on what country the reporter comes from.

On the evidence of various nations' coverage of the ferocious Jan. 17 earthquake that killed more than 5,000 people here, it's clear that Japanese reporters and Western reporters had different ideas about the kind of news they were supposed to find. To a large extent, the dispatches each group filed conformed nicely to its home country's cultural expectations.

Western reporters tended to accentuate the negative, focusing on the worst scenes of destruction and the most crushing moments of personal loss. American journalists in particular seemed to be on the prowl for controversy and confrontation, prodding cold, hungry victims with questions like "Do you think the government has done enough to help?"

The Japanese media seemed more inclined to keep a distance, to view the disaster through a broad lens that included people and buildings still standing as well as those smashed to the ground. And Japanese reports focused far more on harmony than discord among the hundreds of displaced victims—that being, after all, what the Japanese viewer would expect to see.

Even the most basic question in the TV reporter's repertoire—"How do you feel?"—can be considered too pushy in Japan. One morning a young woman from a "wide show," Japan's version of a TV magazine show, stuck her microphone in front of a homeless person at a shelter and asked, "Don't you feel cold?" The network received a flood of calls complaining that the reporter had unduly intruded on the person's privacy.

The differences in coverage were not black and white. There were certainly many Japanese stories about pain and bitterness among the victims, and many Western reports dealt with the striking calm and the strong sense of order in Kobe after the quake.

Taken as a whole, though, the Eastern and Western reporting created distinctly different impressions among consumers of the news. This is reflected in the reactions of two people who came



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue workers carry an elderly woman from a damaged building in Kobe, Japan. Western coverage focused on the human suffering and physical destruction.

to Kobe a few days after the quake:

Shigehiko Togo, of *The Washington Post's* Tokyo bureau, had been watching Japanese TV reports from Kobe almost around the clock. But when he got here, he said, "I was just stunned at the extent of the damage."

A few days later an American journalist arrived, having watched earthquake news on the major American networks. "My first reaction was, 'Wait a minute! There's still a skyline!'" she said.

"I was amazed at how much of Kobe was still there. I mean, I had watched hours and hours of TV in America about this earthquake, and I had no idea that there were houses and tall buildings still standing all over the city."

Here in Kobe, several Western TV reporters set up a "stand-up" site—that is, the spot where the TV correspondent stands when she says, "This is Jane Jones, XYZ News, Kobe"—at the point where a section of elevated highway had fallen and crunched a truck.

It made for a great picture—as long as the camera remained still. If the camera had panned slightly left or right, viewers would have seen a row of old wooden homes standing intact barely 10 yards away.

It's hardly news that American TV reporters tended to search hard for the most dramatic picture. What is surprising is that Japanese TV cameras often did not.

"I had the impression that the Japanese networks were trying to keep a respectful distance," ABC News reporter Deborah Wang told Japan's NHK network. "American news cameras wanted to zoom right in on the face, the tears. But the Japanese stayed back and took the wider shot."

The Japanese have a strong tradition of the stiff upper lip; they have a word for it, *gaman*, which means enduring something difficult without complaint. Because *gaman* is a cherished virtue, and also because the Japanese don't open up easily to strangers, not many victims complained openly to reporters, domestic or foreign, about conditions after the quake.

But when Western reporters heard complaints, they tended to feature the remarks at the top of their stories.

The Wall Street Journal ran a story on "political aftershocks" of the Kobe quake. The report opened with angry comments from a furious victim who lashed out bitterly at Japan's government and society. Further along in the same report, the *Journal* noted that for every such complainer, there were probably twice as many people in Kobe "who are taking their displacement stoically." Yet it was the complaint that appeared in the headline and at the top of the story.

This article is excerpted from The Washington Post.

PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

LONDON: To mark the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, AP London's **Edie Lederer** and **Horst Faas** are organizing a reunion for correspondents who covered that war. The event will be held in Ho Chi Minh City April 24-28. In a memo to Vietnam correspondents, Edie wrote: "What we are planning is just a few informal get-togethers including a boat ride down the Saigon River, a dinner in Cholon, a cocktail party with a view of the river, a Pho brunch and perhaps some sightseeing." For details, contact **Barry Kramer** at *The Wall Street Journal*, New York City, (212) 416-2210. In late February, Kramer said about half a dozen reporters were planning to attend the reunion. "We are going no matter how many or how few sign up," he said.

LOS ANGELES: **Simon Li**, 47, has been named foreign editor of *The Los Angeles Times*. He replaces **Alvin Shuster**, who is retiring. Before joining the paper in 1984, Li worked at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for 13 years.

NEW YORK: **Richard Bernstein**, a former foreign correspondent, has been named book critic at *The New York Times*. Since joining the *Times* in 1982, Bernstein has been Paris bureau chief, a United Nations correspondent and a national correspondent. Earlier he worked nearly 10 years at *Time* magazine, where his assignments included chief of the Beijing bureau. Bernstein, 50, is the author of three books.



Richard Bernstein

Another *Times*man, **Steven R. Weisman**, has been appointed to the paper's editorial board. Weisman, 48, has been deputy foreign editor of the *Times* since 1992. He served as senior White House correspondent from 1981 until 1984, when he became New Delhi bureau chief. In 1989, he was named Tokyo bureau chief, and he held that post until becoming deputy foreign editor.

◆
OPC Foundation President **H.L. Stevenson**, that feisty spirit and hearty soul, is getting better. Results from medical tests show that he does not have colon cancer, as once suspected, and there is no evidence of a tumor. His family writes, "He is off the ventilator and feeding tube and his team of doctors hope to start him on a soft diet soon. (He'll probably want a Big Mac tomorrow)." Of course, he's still very sick. Because of a tracheotomy, he can't talk. And a vexing kidney problem may force him to stay on dialysis permanently. Mail may be sent to Room 460 Jennings, United Hospital Medical Center, Boston Post Road, Port Chester, NY 10573. No phone calls, please.

◆
OPC board member **Ponchitta Pierce** hosted a panel that analyzed changes in global manufacturing in a documentary entitled "Does Making Things Matter," which aired Feb. 21 on Thirteen/WNET in New York. The hourlong program featured reports from Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Czech Republic and the United States, followed by discussions with an international panel of experts. Pierce is an award-winning TV producer, magazine writer and former CBS News special correspondent.



Ponchitta Pierce

◆
The Society for Technical Communication has conferred its Award of Excellence on OPCer **M. Dan Morris** for editing a new book on electronic building controls. Morris is an editor with McGraw-Hill Professional Book Group.

◆
As part of *Business Week's* expanded international coverage, the weekly announced a long list of editorial staff changes last month. **Robert J. Dowling**, assistant managing editor of *Business Week*, will also become managing editor of *Business Week's* international and foreign-language publications. **Frank J. Comes**, a senior editor,

will additionally become the international edition's deputy editor. **William J. Holstein**, president of the OPC, will become World Editor, specializing in international projects, cover stories, special reports and features.

◆
In addition, **William Glasgall**, a senior writer, becomes senior financial correspondent. **Duane Anderson** becomes a senior news editor and will manage the magazine's global business coverage. **Rose Brady**, another new senior news editor, will concentrate on emerging markets and special situation stories. **Stanley Reed** becomes international affairs editor. **Joan Warner** will edit a new international finance section.

◆
After 30 years with CBS, network President **Howard Stringer** is leaving to accept a job as chairman of a new media venture. CBS's second-in-command, **Peter Lund**, has been named to succeed him. Stringer, 53, will join a still-unnamed media-technology company formed by Bell Atlantic, Nynex and Pacific Telesis. The company plans to send video programming to consumers through phone lines, thus becoming a competitor to cable companies in providing both phone and video services to homes. "It's a big leap of faith," Stringer said, "but the possibilities are very compelling."

◆
OPC author **Stan Fischler** has written a new book. In *Confessions of a Trolley Dodger from Brooklyn* (H&M Productions, Flushing, NY), he takes a nostalgic look back at life in Brooklyn during the 1930s and 1940s, weaving in tales about the streetcar lines he regularly traveled. Fischler, author of the best-selling subway history, *Uptown, Downtown*, has written over 70 books on both sports and trains. A former New York bureau chief for the *Toronto Star*, he has been a TV hockey analyst for the New York Islanders and New Jersey Devils for the past 20 years. Currently he manages Fischler Sports Service, which publishes a hockey industry newsletter.

◆
In the first significant move to put his own team in place at the nation's largest magazine publisher, Time Inc.'s new editor in chief, **Norman Pearlstine**, has named **John Huey** top editor of *Fortune* magazine. In tapping Huey, 46, Pearlstine is turning to a close col-

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PEOPLE

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league from his days at *The Wall Street Journal*, where both men had long careers. In 1982 they went to Brussels to start the paper's European edition. Pearlstine was founding editor and Huey founding managing editor. Huey eventually succeeded Pearlstine as editor.

Huey replaces **Walter Kiechel III**, who has been managing editor only since May. Kiechel, 48, will now assist Pearlstine in developing new editorial-based information products.



John Huey

Pearlstine and Huey are expected to overhaul *Fortune's* formula of writing broad management and corporate governance stories to focus more on storytelling about individual corporations, executives and entrepreneurs. But, given both men's overseas credentials, will the magazine also return to its earlier days of foreign bureaus and more international coverage?

WASHINGTON: Alan Cooperman has been named Moscow bureau chief for *U.S. News & World Report*. Cooperman, 34, succeeds **Doug Stanglin**, the magazine's Moscow bureau chief for the past three years. Cooperman comes to *U.S. News* from the Associated Press, where he was a correspondent and news editor in Moscow from 1990 to 1994. Stanglin has returned to Washington as a senior editor for the *Washington Whispers* column. His wife, **Victoria Pope**, has returned as a senior editor for the *World* section. She was an occasional contributor from Moscow.

DECEASED: Longtime member **Henry Gladstone** died Jan. 22 in San Diego, where he had lived since his retirement in 1977. He was 83. For 35 years he delivered the news and a nightly business report over WOR Radio. His stentorian voice was as familiar in the OPC clubrooms, where he frequently repaired for refreshment after his evening duties at WOR, just around the corner. Recalls OPCer George Burns, "Henry, who owned a radio station in Pennsylvania, was a consummate veteran newsman, a respected and popular member of the fraternity of regulars at the OPC in its 40th Street lodgings."

KOBE

(Continued from Front Page)

ferred a nasty-looking gash, affording a disconcerting peek at the bay far below—we got a whiff of something foul.

At the same time, a police helicopter circling overhead blared a warning that huge liquid-propane gas tanks at the foot of the bridge were leaking and could explode at any time. "Don't panic," counseled the voice in the sky.

Of course, we did.

"I'm getting out of here," said the clear-thinking Siani, who promptly turned on his heels. "I'd suggest you come back with me," he added over his shoulder.

Naoko and I looked at each other. Then we looked at the tank farm, which now seemed to be listing precariously and, yes, certainly seemed ready to blow itself—and us—to kingdom come. Then we glanced down at the cold sea water. Then we looked at Ron's back, disappearing quickly into the distance.

"Look," I finally managed to say through a suddenly parched mouth, "we've come this far; we knew it would be dangerous; this is a very big story. Let's go."

Naoko—reflecting fondly on her teen-age daughter in Tokyo, she later confessed—nodded agreement, or something I took to mean agreement, and we continued across the bridge.

It was eerie: For one thing, we didn't know whether the bridge would give way beneath our footsteps, which now seemed to be crashing down like a herd of woolly mastodons. Then there was the little matter of that anticipated explosion. I could see it and hear it and feel it and, as has happened to me over a quarter-century of covering wars and riots, wondered what a nice boy from New Jersey was doing in a place like this.

As you must have already guessed, the bridge held, the blast never happened and we made it to the other side. There we discovered the real horror of the quake and spoke to some of the survivors.

Then, with deadline approaching back in the newsroom, we reversed tracks and headed for Siani's place on Rokko Island so I could write. But the police blocked us. "You can't go," one told us, "because the gas tanks are leaking worse than ever, and we can't take the responsibility to allow you to pass."

"What's your job worth compared with your life," came the not unreasonable rejoinder.

At that point another officer, who seemed even more rigid than the first as he repeatedly growled, "There's no way we'll let you go," surreptitiously pointed to a side approach to the bridge and engaged his colleague in conversation while we slipped away.

After that, covering the quake was pretty much a piece of cake—relatively speaking. The phone lines in Ron's little apartment and office worked, and there was power, so I could plug in my laptop. We had heat and light—a rare privilege not shared by hundreds of thousands of others around devastated Kobe.

There was no running water, though. That meant taking turns going to the decorative pond behind the starkly modern high-rise, filling buckets and



Lewis M. Simons

plastic-bag-lined trash cans and schlepping them up 10 flights of stairs. Toilet flushing became a sometime thing. Bathing was out of the question. After four days, though, we learned it was possible to perform basic ablutions with not much more than a cup of water.

By bizarre contrast, Ron—a gourmet cook—turned out splendid meals, drawing on his well-stocked freezer. Thus, Naoko and I would come back each evening after a day of having had nothing to eat (or a rice ball and water at best) and be treated to (a) shrimp cocktail and steak; (b) spicy pasta and stir-fried vegetables; (c) sauteed fish and Japanese buckwheat noodles.

I recalled similar jarring experiences in Saigon: fine French meals after weeks of covering wretched battles.

One morning, after I'd lugged the day's water supply upstairs, I found Ron in his cubby-size kitchen, grinding coffee. We glanced at each other, sniffed the delicious aroma and burst into laughter at the absurdity of fresh-ground coffee in the middle of a nightmare.

And that's the story behind the story.

This article is a reprint of an op-ed that appeared in the Journal of Commerce.

Journalists' Tall Tales Win Prizes, Laughs

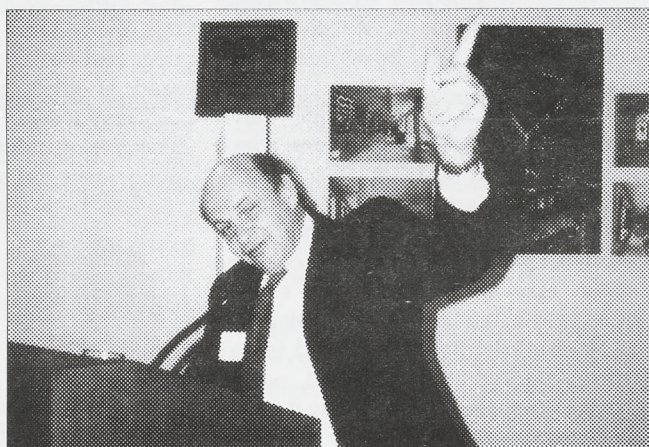
About 50 past and present foreign correspondents turned out for an evening of fun, food and fantastic storytelling at the first (and hopefully annual) Correspondents Night Feb. 28 in New York City's Time-Life Building. The event brought together journalists from three organizations—the OPC, The Deadline Club and the United Nations Correspondents Association. Several people recounted experiences on the spot, recalling everything from their greatest and worst beats to their most creative expense accounts. Those who had sent in winning entries for the contest took

home prizes, from wine and vodka to videos and novelty pencils. Two of the winning stories are printed below. Others will appear in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

LARGEST INSECT OR MOST REPUGNANT CRITTER EVER ENCOUNTERED

Lady calls up the Long Island *Star Journal* and says she found an eight-inch bug in the back yard, six or eight

legs, wings, a mouth and four or five eyes. The city desk sends its best (and only) copyboy to pick it up and bring it to the entomological department at the Museum of Natural History on the way to work the next day. I pick it up. It



Bill Bell, Citybeat columnist for the New York Daily News and president of The Deadline Club, spins one of his many hilarious yarns.

checks out. About 10 appendages and maybe a foot long, a coupla mouths. A stinger. I take the train to work, fall asleep. Wake up. Forget the bug. Half-hour later, realize my mistake, go back to lost and found. No one has reported finding a 14-inch bug with 19 appendages. City editor decides to make

copyboy write a first-person article on being so stupid as to have left a 15-inch bug on the train, with six sets of wings, four fangs and a viper spreader, and a coupla dozen legs. My first by-line is a front-page screamer warning the public about a dangerous killer bug loose in the train system, about a foot and a half long and hungry, mouths at either end and stingers in the middle, front and back, probably rabid and partial to kids and the elderly heading for mass in the morning. Circulation goes up. I get promoted. True story.

—Bob Sullivan, News Bureau Chief,
Worldwide TV News

MOST IMPRESSIVE MEASURE TO GET THE STORY TO THE HOME OFFICE

I was on the Concorde, flying around the world at Mach 2, sitting next to an Australian aeronautics writer, when the tail blew off of the airplane. He looked at me, shrugged and said, "This plane can't land." We then exchanged many more confidences that I care to admit, and then sat there a few more minutes while the pilot guided the plane into a perfect landing in Sydney. Everyone, aeronautics writer included, dashed for telephones to call their friends and families. I grabbed a cab, waved dollars in the driver's face and took off at top speed for the Associated Press in town. I was not working for them at the time, but it was my story that went around the world faster than the Concorde ever flew.

—Sheila Cole Nilva,
Freelance Journalist

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AWARDS DINNER

with Robert MacNeil,
of The MacNeil/Lehrer
NewsHour

April 26

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